

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please find below a listing of claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus for assembly of electrochemical cells comprising:
 - a supporting structure;
 - at least one stacking head ~~having an adjustable holding member adapted to hold an electrochemical laminate of a pre-determined length and having means for adjusting the shape of said electrochemical laminate;~~
~~— said at least one stacking head being~~ operative to stack a plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ electrochemical laminates of ~~[[the]]~~ a pre-determined length one on top of the other, said stacking head having at least one adjustable holding member adapted to hold a particular one of the electrochemical laminates and having means for adjusting the shape of the particular one of the electrochemical laminates, said at least one adjustable holding member being operative during stacking said adjustable holding member holding each to hold the particular one of the electrochemical laminates of the pre-determined length in a shape such that a central portion of the particular one of the electrochemical laminates of the pre-determined length is deposited first followed by a motion of said adjustable holding member that and to subsequently move so as to progressively lowers lower the remainder of the particular one of the electrochemical laminates, thereby preventing air entrapment between adjacent ones of the electrochemical laminates of the pre-determined length in the being stacked.
2. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one adjustable holding member includes a vacuum system for generating a negative

~~pressure that holds said pre-determined length of~~ for holding the particular one of the
electrochemical laminates.

3. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said at least one adjustable holding member includes a plate made of a micro-porous material, said through which the vacuum system being operative for generates said generating the negative pressure through said plate.
4. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein said at least one adjustable holding member includes a vacuum chamber positioned adjacent said plate of micro-porous material.
5. (original) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising mechanical cutting means adjacent said stacking head and adapted to cut a continuous length of electrochemical laminate to said pre-determined length.
6. (original) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said mechanical cutting means includes a rotary knife.
7. (original) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one stacking head includes two adjustable holding members rotatably mounted onto said at least one stacking head.
8. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said two adjustable holding members are rotatably mounted through a slot system for guiding the rotational movement of said two adjustable holding members, thereby preventing damage to ~~[[said]]~~ the particular one of the electrochemical laminates ~~of the pre-determined length~~.
9. (original) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one stacking head is movable vertically and horizontally within said supporting structure.

10. (original) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, comprising a plurality of stacking heads mounted side by side on said supporting structure such that a plurality of electrochemical cells may be assembled simultaneously.
11. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a treated surface ~~onto which a~~ for stacking thereon the plurality of [[said]] electrochemical laminates of the pre-determined length ~~are stacked~~.
12. (currently amended) A stacking apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one carriage platform having a treated surface ~~onto which a~~ for stacking thereon the plurality of [[said]] electrochemical laminates of the pre-determined length ~~are stacked~~.
13. – 14. (cancelled)